

Two new species of the *placida* group of the genus *Aletia* Hübner (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Hadeninae)

Jacques Plante

2, rue Prés de la Scie, CH-1920 Martigny, Switzerland

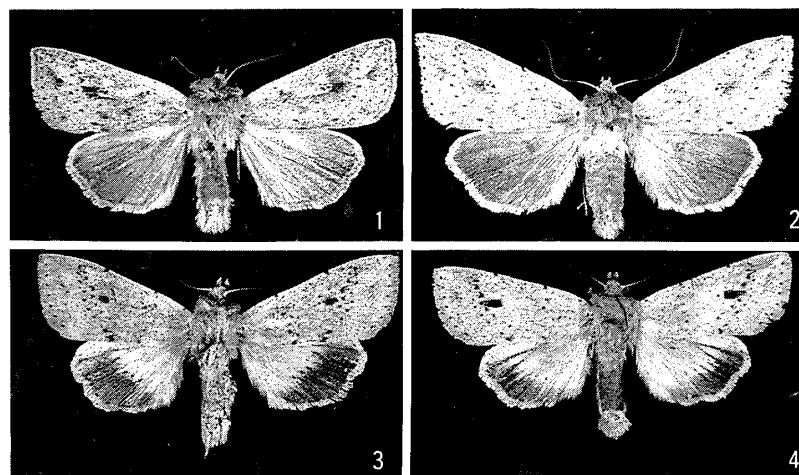
Abstract Two new species of the *placida* group are hereinafter described: *Aletia legraini* n. sp. from northern India and China, and *A. bicolorata* n. sp. from northern India and Nepal, bringing to six, with *A. placida* (Butler, 1878), *A. subplacida* Sugi, 1977, *A. bani* Sugi, 1977 and *A. godavariensis* Yoshimoto, 1992, the number of species as yet known pertaining to this particular group.

Key words Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, *Aletia-placida* group, *Aletia legraini* n. sp., *Aletia bicolorata* n. sp., India, China, Nepal, taxonomy.

Aletia legraini n. sp. (Figs. 1, 2)

Male (Fig. 1). Antenna ciliate. Expanse 37-44 mm. Ground colour of forewing brownish grey, irrorated with black scales, and with a slight pink shade around the reniform. Subbasal line obsolete; antemedian and subterminal lines better defined by a series of points at veins; reniform yellowish, containing at least two, sometimes more, black points, and underlined by a whitish streak; the dark shade posterior to it well conspicuous and broad. Cilia hardly paler than the ground colour. Hindwing uniformly brownish grey. On the underside, both wings with a well defined postmedian line; hindwing with a black discoidal spot, and forewing with a large fuscous marking extending from base to nearly the whole wing, leaving place for the ground colour only along the costa, the inner margin and the termen.

Female (Fig. 2). Expanse 39-45 mm. Similar to the male, just a little paler and larger,



Figs. 1-4. *Aletia* spp. 1. *A. legraini* n. sp., holotype ♂ (Kurseong-Burbong). 2. *Id.*, paratype ♀ (Kurseong). 3. *A. bicolorata* n. sp., holotype ♂ (Kurseong-Burbong). 4. *Id.*, paratype ♀ (Tindharya).

sometimes with all markings not so well defined.

Male genitalia (Fig. 5). Close to those of *subplacida*, but differing from them in the flap of the valva being subtriangular, and not evenly rounded, in the process of harpe (clasper) shorter, larger at base and more sharply angled.

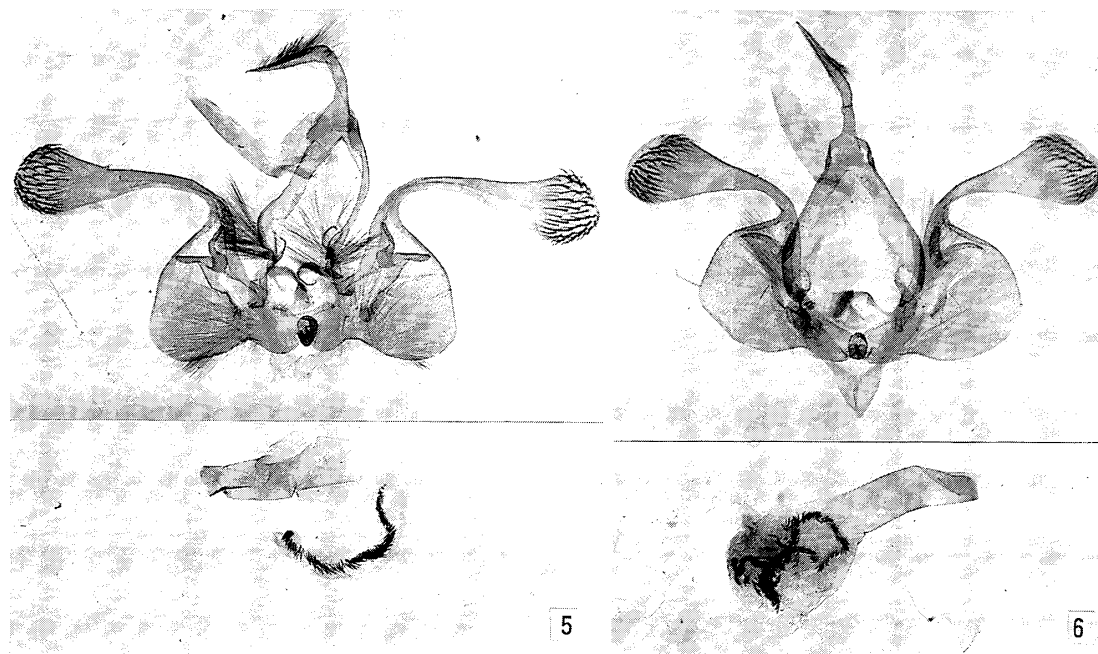
Holotype, ♂. India, West Bengal, Kurseong-Burbong, 1660 m, 8-20. IV. 1988 (Aulombard, Martin and Plante), in my collection. Paratypes. India: same data as holotype, 1 ♂; Kurseong, 1475 m, 7-22. IV. 1988, 4 ♂ 9 ♀ (Aulombard, Martin and Plante); Darjeeling, 27-29. IX. 1986, 1 ♂ (Aulombard and Plante), in my collection.

The new species is dedicated to Dr Albert Legrain, Belgium, whose knowledge of the Noctuidae has always been of great help to me.

***Aletia bicolorata* n. sp.** (Figs. 3, 4)

Male (Fig. 3). Expanse 40-42 mm. Female (Fig. 4). Expanse 39-42 mm. Similar to the preceding species, but fairly paler and more yellowish, the forewing more irrorated with black scales and dotted, by places, with fuscous. The double postmedian line and the dark shade posterior to the reniform well marked. Different from all the species of this group in the hindwing remarkably pale straw-yellow in its basal half, the distal part of it being constituted by a nearly terminal dark band, more or less large with specimens, narrowing towards the inner angle and not always reaching the tornus. This dark band does not appear on the underside of the hindwings, where only the postmedian and terminal lines, formed of a series of fine points, and the discoidal spot, are present. The postmedian line is also present on the underside of the forewing.

Male genitalia (Fig. 6). A little similar to those of *godavariensis*, differing from them



Figs. 5-6. Male genitalia of *Aletia* spp. 5. *A. legraini* n. sp., paratype (Kurseong-Burbong) (slide PL 1074). 6. *A. bicolorata* n. sp., holotype (Kurseong-Burbong) (slide PL 1124).

however in the shape of the flap of valva, the cucullus not so elongate, the ampulla shorter and the process of harpe (clasper) much broader.

Holotype, ♂. India, West Bengal, Kurseong-Burbong, 1600 m, 8-20. IV. 1988 (Aulombard, Martin and Plante), in my collection. Paratypes. India : Kurseong, 1475 m, 7-22. IV. 1988, 1 ♂ 1 ♀ (Aulombard, Martin and Plante); Tindharya, 950 m, 14. IV. 1988, 1 ♀ (Aulombard, Martin and Plante). Nepal : Kathmandu, Godavari, 1600 m, 9. IX. 1991 (*ex* T. Haruta), 1 ♂. A Nepalese male is in the collection of Mr H. Yoshimoto, Tokyo, and the others are in my collection.

A Chinese male shown by Chen (1982, pl. 92 : 2200) as *Leucania modesta* Moore seems identical with this new species. The locality of his "*modesta*" is given as Chekiang Prov., and it is probable that *bicolorata* is widely distributed from Nepal to West China.

In the collection of the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, I found several Chinese specimens of *Aletia subplacida* Sugi (1977 : 55) : 2 ♂, Chekiang Prov., Mokanshan, 11. VIII-1. IX. 1930 (Höne) ; 2 ♂ 1 ♀, Hunan Prov., Hoeng-shan, 20-22. V. 1933, 1. VII. 1933 (Höne) ; 2 ♂ 1 ♀, Kwangtun Prov., Linping, "IV. 22", "6. 4. 22", "5. 6. 24" (Höne), and of *A. bani* Sugi (1977 : 56) : 1 ♂ 2 ♀, Chekiang Prov., Ost Tien-mu-shan, 28. VII. 1931 (Höne) ; 2 ♂ 1 ♀, Hunan Prov., Hoeng-shang, 900 m, 23. VII-4. VIII. 1933 (Höne).

A. subplacida was described from Taiwan and *A. bani*, described from Japan, was just recently discovered from Taiwan (Chang, 1991 : 149-150). As far as I know, none of these two species has ever been recorded from continental China.

A. godavariensis Yoshimoto (1992 : 56) was described on the sole male secured at Godavari near Kathmandu, Nepal, in September. I also have four females around the type locality (1 ♀, Godavari, 27. IX. 1983, Plante ; 3 ♀, Kathmandu, 21. V-15. VI. 1976, Plante). Two females from West Bengal before me might also belong to this species. 2 ♀, India, West Bengal, Kurseong-Burbong, 8-20. IV. 1988 (Aulombard, Martin and Plante).

Aletia lishana Chang (1991 : 145) from Taiwan is based on the sole male collected from Lishan (2000 m), Taichung Hsien, on 6. VIII. 1982. Though the male genitalia have not been shown, the facies suggest that this species may also belong to the *placida* group.

Acknowledgements

The present paper was ready for printing when I received from Dr D. Stüning of the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, whom I warmly thank, a parcel of Chinese Noctuidae in that museum, containing in addition to the specimens hereabove mentioned, four specimens of a new species, pertaining to the same group, which shall be the object of a subsequent paper.

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摘 要

Aletia-placida 群のキョトウ（ヤガ科）の2新種（Jacques Plante）

インドの西ベンガル地方および中国、ネパールから、*Aletia-placida* 群のキョトウの2新種を記載した。

Aletia legraini sp. n.

インドの西ベンガル(Kurseon-Burbon, Darjeeling)の標本に基づく。雄交尾器は *A. subplacida* Sugi に似る。

Aletia bicolorata sp. n.

インドの西ベンガル (Kurseon-Burbon, Tindharya) とネパール (カトマンズ郊外 Godavari) の標本を基に記載した。後翅内半が淡黄色を示す顕著な種である。陳(1982)により *Leucania modesta* Moore として図示された雄(中国蛾類図鑑 **3**, pl. 92: 2200)は本種かも知れない。

なお本報では、Höne コレクションに基づき、中国から *A. bani* Sugi (ミカワキョトウ) および *A. subplacida* Sugi を記録した。いずれも大陸からの最初の記録となる。

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